

May, 1956

President's Page

Good to have seen so many of you at Columbus recently. If you weren't there, sorry I missed you. If you were there, sorry I didn't have more time to spend with you. For the ol' man, those were hectic days, only because I had agreed to be so many places within such short periods of time.

Not to belabor, but just to indicate and to advise of whereabouts let's run through briefly. Thursday evening, April 12, I flew to St. Louis for the Music Educators Golden Anniversary Conference. I was introduced at opening session 10 a.m. following day. Then I flew to Oklahoma City and was with Vice President John W. Dunn that night when he put first program on KETA-TV at Oklahoma City. Back to St. Louis Saturday morning and to hear Charles Siepmann at MENC meeting, and to have dinner with Haskell Boyter while we talked about 1956 Atlanta convention. Sunday morning, 8:30 to 12:20 it was MENC Golden breakfast, with NAEB's president as guest. Home Sunday evening where I talked to Illio (yearbook) staff meeting. Monday morning to Chicago, where I addressed NARTB-FM session and attended APBE luncheon. Then to Columbus for Board meeting at 8 that night, and 9 and 2 the next day. There was the AERT luncheon and the dinner with ETRC president. There was reception late afternoon. Later, I presided at three discussion groups, one plenary session, and NAEB luncheon. Oh, stop it Schooley, Okay, but Waldo Abbot asked how I got about.

A number of important business matters were considered by the Board.

For example, the legal counsel, along with the president, was directed to protect FM interests before the FCC, to protect and improve if possible the daytimers situation, and to help fight any inroads on educational TV reservations.

The Board also authorized the NAEB Radio Network manager to inaugurate the B&B plan for the Net. Basic and Bonus for both the regular and school program sides of the Net will be started as soon as possible. The B&B plan is to be tried for one year, then evaluated. Also, the Network manager was authorized to implement program with such rules and operational procedures as are necessary to carry out the spirit of the plan.

While at Columbus, the Board also decided on holding of four regional meetings before July 1, and scheduled two meetings for 1956-57. Consideration was also given to possible changes in any of the regions. In view of upcoming regional meetings, directors were asked to discuss with all the members, and where possible come back with specific recommendations. All have been supplied with about four different proposals so that they may be made basis of discussion.

Also, Board authorized procedure for electing regional directors in future. Simplified (I hope I state it simply), nominations will be made by members within each region at least 30 days prior to national convention. Voting by mail for regional directors will take place within 30 days after convention. It was thought better to vote after the convention so that anyone placed in national office could be eliminated from voting procedure within region. Incidentally, each region nominates and elects its own regional director under the new procedure. Under this plan, it seems obvious, and definite proposals will be forthcoming, that officers and directors will serve the calendar year after election. This is the present status of the treasurer.

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Now I want to come to one matter that is a real one in our present situation, and one on which the Board puts high priority, and the president would like to be recorded as indicating his high approval, too. That's the matter of good programming for the Network, both for regular service and for school programming. We must not only keep up program standards, we must better them.

There are a number of things that will be done shortly, and that should lead to improved program service. For example, holding of engineers' workshop-seminar late this month should help in technical quality problems of recording, playbacks, and transmitting. The In-School committee is meeting here about same time to consider ways and means of improving in-school programs.

Shortly, too, every member will be asked to contribute to one, two, or three program series that will be specially designed to give all an opportunity to share responsibilities and glories. We've talked this over with Program Planning Chairman Ken Wright and we believe we can really do something about which there has been much talk, little done in the past. Now, I'm on record and you hold me responsible if things don't happen.

Too, Ken Wright will be with ETRC for a year, starting July 1, and President Newburn hopes to have Ken work a great deal in helping plan, produce and improve our Net programs. We have current grant-in-aids programs in production. We hope to have another series next year, too.

Incidentally, we have some good program suggestions on file, those that have come from members. You won't need to refile, but if you have any recent, good suggestions, please send them along to headquarters. It takes the help of all to keep moving ahead, and I'm sure you want to do your share.

I can't here give a full report, that is a report in every detail. I've tried to pick out high points of Board's considerations. Every such report runs into dangers, such as failing to mention another item that is also important. Right you are. For example, we spent much time discussing professional advancement, the status of members, improved services to members, and the possibilities of state and local organizations within NAEB. You, especially you who get to regional meetings, can help a great deal if you'll give consideration to such problems, too.

I could go on and on, but we're already past deadline, so I bid you adieu.

--Frank E. Schooley

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